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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 790

By McDonald

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Mr. Fred J. White for his meritorious service to the town of Portland.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the elected representatives of the State of Tennessee should pay tribute to those exemplary citizens who through their hard work and dedication have distinguished themselves as invaluable assets in their respective communities; and

WHEREAS, no Tennessean could possibly be more deserving of this Body's commendation than Mr. Fred J. White of Portland; and

WHEREAS, Fred White has profoundly touched the lives of so many people in Portland by means of his consummate professionalism, selfless dedication and indefatigable love of public service, thereby enriching beyond measure the quality of life for everyone there; and

WHEREAS, born and raised in Southwest Virginia, Fred served with great bravery in the United States Navy in the Atlantic and Pacific Theaters; and

WHEREAS, during his stay in a U.S. Naval Hospital Mr. White met a Red Cross worker, the lovely Eleanor Moore, who he would later take to be his bride; and

WHEREAS, Fred White moved to Portland in 1948, where he became the owner and operator of a grocery store, and for 37 years this fine establishment served the needs of the Portland community; and

WHEREAS, this inimitable man was elected Mayor of Portland in 1968, and served with distinction for four consecutive terms; and

WHEREAS, during his illustrious tenure in elected office he set the standard for future community servants to emulate by virtue of his sterling achievements, helping to secure nearly twenty million dollars in grants to fund a municipal airport, administration building and hangers, a new city municipal building, downtown urban renewal and public housing projects, major water and sewer improvements, two city parks, a community center, and a library, to name a few; and

WHEREAS, Fred White played an integral role in the recruitment and location of 50 manufacturing companies, which today provide almost 6,000 industrial jobs with an annual payroll of over one hundred million dollars; and

WHEREAS, after choosing not to seek re-election in 1975, Mr. White took on a new challenge as Portland's Economic and Community Development Coordinator and Industrial Recruiter; Fred's singular devotion to the community he holds in such high regard has enabled its citizens to enjoy the prosperity they so richly deserve; and

WHEREAS, despite his many responsibilities, Fred White has contributed his time and numerous talents as a Boy Scout Master of Troop 124 of Portland for twenty years, as a member of the Board of Directors for the United Way, the Board of Trustees for Volunteer State Community College, the American Legion, and the Veterans of Foreign Wars; and

WHEREAS, throughout his august service to this state and his community, Fred has remained a dedicated public servant, and a voice of integrity in his field, as demonstrated by his membership in the Middle Tennessee Industrial Development Association, the Tennessee Industrial Development Council, the Southern Industrial Development Council, the Middle Tennessee Council of Governments, the Middle Tennessee Development District, the Greater

Nashville Regional Council, the Tennessee Municipal League, and the Metropolitan Planning Organization; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments aside, Mr. White is most appreciative of the love and support he shares with his family, including his wife; their two sons, five grandchildren and one great-grandson; and

WHEREAS, public servants of his stature do not often grace us with their presence; we are most grateful to Fred White for evidencing the greatest commitment to living the examined life with dedication and wisdom; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we hereby honor Mr. Fred J. White for his distinguished service to the City of Portland; salute his countless contributions to the good citizens of the community, and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation to Mr. White with this final clause omitted from such copy.